



KWMUN IV

Migration Crisis Committee
~ Background Guide ~

Welcome Letter

Welcome to KWMUN IV! On March 23, you will have the opportunity to debate, resolve, engage with and discuss some of the most pressing topics in modern international diplomacy. The United Nations plays an essential role in the cooperation between countries around the world and the resolution of diplomatic disputes in the modern world. We are so excited begin the process of resolving the pressing issue outlined in this background guide.

Our names are Erik Gorman and Sanjivan Loganathan and we are your co-chairs for KWMUN IV this year in the United Nations Crisis Committee on Migration in the Americas. There are other numerous faculty advisors and other members of the KWMUN Secretariat. These include the United Nations Security Council dais and the United Nations Human Rights Council dais, along with the Secretary-General, Oscar Judelson-Kelly.

The Crisis Committee will be discussing the ongoing migration crisis in North and South America, with thousands of people leaving South and Central American countries in the hope of a better life in North America. This is an extremely important issue, putting pressure on some of the most influential countries in the world. It is our hope that the conference will shed light on various perspectives surrounding this issue and will come to a safe and effective resolution on this issue.

The purpose of this document is primarily to provide background guidance, information for delegates and to narrow the scope of the discussion at KWMUN IV. Use this guide as a model for the topic that will be discussed at the conference and use the guiding questions and resources to dictate your research.

Delegates should read the entirety of this background guide and use the information included to conduct their own research into their country's position, past actions and proposals for the amendments of the various topics being discussed at this year's conference. Delegates are expected to have a basic understanding of their country's allies, adversaries and other information that will allow delegates to accurately and precisely represent their country during the conference.

Position papers are a requirement for all delegates to complete should they want to be considered for awards at the end of the conference, and are a recommendation for all delegates. However, regardless of whether delegates submit position papers, they are nevertheless expected to be prepared for the conference. In order to be prepared for the conference, delegates must research the topics outlined in this document (as they are the topics that will be discussed at the conference) and their country's position regarding these topics. Again, delegates should use the guiding questions and sources in this document to aid in the preparation process. Delegates should also research views and opinions, regional interests, actions taken and actions they would like to see happen to their given country.

We strongly believe that the migration crisis in the Americas requires an immediate solution, and we feel that this committee will be instrumental in providing one. We urge you to suggest a combination of creative, old, new and effective solutions to these problems to eventually ensure a better life for all humans.

Please feel free to contact us before March 23, 2019 if you have any questions or concerns! Good luck in your preparation!

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Committee Overview

Crisis Committees are non-permanent committees in the United Nations, and are only created when major crises arise, such as natural disasters, political showdowns and humanitarian crises that require drastic immediate attention in order to work towards solving them. Rather than a normal committee where there are planned talking points that have developed over the course of decades and situations are addressed as they stand in the world, the crisis continues to evolve throughout the conference. Over time, other factors and developments to the crisis are introduced to the committee by the co-chairs. These developments will take the form of breaking news reports from around the world and other government and military-associated developments relating to the topic.

The purpose a crisis committee is to quickly resolve an important and potentially devastating issue that has arisen in the world. Whilst crisis committees have been and continue to be utilized by the United Nations, the Crisis Committee at KWMUN will be a fictional scenario, but based on plausible events and existing international diplomatic and governmental infrastructure. Crisis Committees involve the states and stakeholder groups party to the crisis and in addition to a group of mediating states and United Nations representatives to maintain order and productivity. These groups of states then work together to come together on a solution to the crisis, while working through the challenges thrown at them in the form of live updates and developments throughout the conference.

Another unique aspect to crisis committees are the way in which they make decisions. The typical method of drafting and passing a resolution is accepted in a crisis scenario, but this process can be long and arduous in some cases and inefficient in a crisis setting. Therefore the efficient and quick problem-solving method of directives is used, especially when time is of the essence and it is paramount that a solution/agreement is reached quickly. You can familiarize yourself with directives before the conference, but keep in mind that your co-chairs will be able to explain the key differences and nuances with respect to directives during your committee sessions. Directives are much less complicated than the passing of resolutions and simply require minimal drafts and motions before they are able to be put into effect.

These committees are vital to the short-term resolution of major crises around the world, acting as stopgaps until other UN Committees like the UNGA, UNSC or UNHCR can come up with a solution, or the states party to the crisis negotiate an agreement on their own.

Note from the chairs: the UN Charter and the UN Declaration of Human Rights are the two statutes that make up the core around which committee discussion is centered. Delegates should be familiar with these two texts and should review them to see how the policies and wording in these documents differ from the countries represented by delegates.

Topic 1: The American Migration Crisis

Overview

Over the past few years, a migration crisis has erupted in North, Central and South America. People have been fleeing countries such as Honduras, Venezuela and Haiti in a mass exodus escaping violence, natural disasters, and government oppression and mismanagement.

In the Northern Triangle of Central America (NTCA) the rate of armed combat and violence has skyrocketed, forcing civilians to flee their countries and seek refuge in neighbouring countries and the United States. Gang violence and homicides are the biggest factors pushing people out of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Nearly 500,000 asylum seekers have fled to countries including Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Belize. Meanwhile, the United States of America is steadily increasing deportation efforts while repealing protections for refugees. American President Donald Trump passed legislation to prevent asylum seekers who illegally entered the United States from claiming refugee status, but it was halted by a U.S. Federal judge. Nearly 294,000 registered refugees have been recorded from the NTCA as of 2017. Nearly 350,000 applications of asylum seekers worldwide have been from this area.

A poorly managed government and national economy under Nicolas Maduro has forced 2.4 million Venezuelans to flee their country. What was once a wealthy and prospering country is now struggling because of governmental mismanagement and a declining economy. Inflation has rendered the Bolivar, Venezuela's currency, virtually worthless in the scope of the South American and international economy. This has driven the prices of necessities up to millions of bolivars, causing shortages in everything from food to medicine and rendering Venezuela uninhabitable for the lower classes. Furthermore, Maduro's legitimacy as president is widely disputed. Credible allegations of election fraud have come forward from multiple governmental sources. Consequently, the Lima Group and the Organization of American States have not recognized the results of the election. After his inauguration on January 10, 2019, mass protests broke out across the country leading to congressional leader, Juan Guaidó, to declare himself Venezuelan President on January 23, 2019. He was immediately recognized by the governments of Canada and the United States. Neighbouring countries such as Colombia, Ecuador and Peru continue to receive waves of immigrants from Venezuela. Ecuador declared a state of emergency last summer in regions heavily affected by

migration. According to the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), Colombia is currently caring for one million Venezuelans and is expecting another two million people in the next two years. Peru is sheltering over 500,000 refugees, and Ecuador is sheltering over 220,000 refugees.

Events such as those in Venezuela have led to increased migration between countries throughout Americas, especially focusing around the mass exodus of Venezuelans to other neighbouring countries. This has put pressure on North American countries to accept these migrants, or to reject them at their borders. However, in recent years the American Government and Trump Administration have implemented immigration policies that involve turning people away and separating families. This has put pressure on Mexico, as they are now forced to house these refugees fleeing to the United States of America. Pressure has also been exerted upon Canada, as migrants that have fled to the United States in recent years have been fearing deportation under the Trump Administration and many of their temporary visas from natural disasters that occurred within the last decade are in the process of expiring. They have then fled to Canada at irregular crossing points to avoid the Safe Third Country agreement, putting pressure on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canada Border Service Agency. According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 19,419 irregular crossings and asylum claims were recorded in Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia within the last decade.

Developments like these require immediate action to give these people fleeing violence, natural disasters and economic and political calamity, a safe place to seek asylum. Resolutions to the underlying problems in countries like El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala are also desperately needed. Finally, the situation in Venezuela must be resolved, so that the people there can have a return to normalcy, with a functioning government and economy.

Major Parties and Key Players

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

- The source of asylum seekers fleeing from a country that has been struggling due to issues in its governance with a leader recognized for not being able to support the economy of the country with policies

North Central Triangle Area

- The area in which many asylum seekers are emigrating from due increase, gang violence and homicides
- Includes El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala

United States of America

- An important party with a high influence on the topic due to the support it can provide and the current political situation it is in

Canada

- A third party affected by the migration from the USA due to close relation with the USA and the current American political situation under President Trump

Guiding Questions

1. What are aggravating factors that contribute to the migration in the NCTA and Venezuela?
2. What are resolutions that have been made in the past to relieve countries of housing refugees?
3. Who supports and who condemns the actions of Maduro in contributing to migration?
4. How many refugees has your delegation accepted?
5. What other delegations are in a similar state of crisis to your delegation?
6. How is the violence and gang activity in the NCTA different from the rest of the world?

Resources

1. <https://www.amnestyusa.org/fleeing-for-our-lives-central-american-migrant-crisis/>
2. <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/09/venezuela-migrants/570979/>
3. <https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/26734/the-u-s-contributed-to-central-american-migrant-crisis-it-must-help-fix-it>
4. <https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2018/5/5b03d89c4/unhcr-alarmed-sharp-rise-forced-displacement-north-central-america.html>
5. <https://www.vox.com/2018/10/24/18010340/caravan-trump-border-honduras-mexico>
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/08/venezuela-migrants-fleeing-exodus-increase-united-nations>
7. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/IF11029.pdf>